



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Standardization of Demand and Time-of-Use Solid State Meters

MEETING DATE: August 18, 1999

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the standardization of demand and time-of-use solid state meters.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The meter industry is gradually moving toward solid state meters i.e. away from electro mechanical meters. Demand meters are only available as solid state meters. Time-of-use metering has been accomplished by using a solid state recording device in conjunction with an electro mechanical meter. The recording device used by the City is 12-14 years old, is no longer available from the manufacturer and is marginally supported due to the age of the device. Solid state time-of-use meters with built in recording capability are the standard today.

Unfortunately, with solid state meters each manufacturer uses proprietary and distinct protocol as well as programming, testing, troubleshooting and data processing software and communication devices. This results in the user of such meters (City of Lodi) having to maintain each manufacturer's software and hardware, including upgrades, as well as having staff trained and able to efficiently work with the different systems in order to be able to purchase the meters using present purchasing policies i.e. competitive bidding.

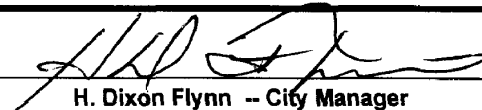
The quantities of meters of the above types purchased yearly is approximately 50 ranging in price from \$190 to \$1,100 per unit depending on the complexity of the meter with the vast majority being in the \$190 range.

Based on the cost to the City for maintaining software and hardware systems, including periodic upgrades, from each manufacturer as well as staff training time on the various systems coupled with the relatively low volume of meters purchased yearly, it is recommended that the City Council authorize standardization for demand and time-of-use solid state meters from one manufacturer, namely Schlumberger.

It should be noted that Schlumberger has consistently been the low bidder on meters of this type. The Schlumberger system proposed here is compatible with the City's existing data recording equipment. The City does own the latest software including software support and necessary hardware for the Schlumberger system.

The metering industry is considering developing a protocol and equipment that can be utilized on all manufacturers' products. However, such standard protocol and equipment is years away from being

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

marketed. When such standard protocol and equipment is available, the City will be considering meters from all manufacturers.

FUNDING: Not applicable

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alan N. Vallow".

Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Hans Hansen, Manager, Engineering and Operations

ANV/HH/lst

c: City Attorney
Purchasing Officer

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 99-124

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL APPROVING
STANDARDIZATION OF DEMAND AND TIME-OF-USE SOLID STATE
METERS

=====

WHEREAS, the meter industry is gradually moving toward solid state meters i.e., away from electro mechanical meters; and

WHEREAS, solid state time-of-use meters with built in recording capability are the standard today; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately with solid state meters each manufacturer uses proprietary and distinct protocol as well as programming, testing, troubleshooting and data processing software and communication devices and this results in the user of such meters having to maintain each manufacturer's software and hardware, including upgrades, as well as having staff trained and able to efficiently work with the different systems in order to be able to purchase the meters using present purchasing policies i.e. competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, based on the cost to the City for maintaining software and hardware systems, including upgrades from each manufacturer as well as staff training time on the various systems, coupled with the relatively low volume of meters purchased yearly, it is recommended that the City Council authorize standardization for demand and time-of-use solid state meters from one manufacturer, namely Schlumberger until such time as the metering industry develops a protocol and equipment that can be utilized on all manufacturer's products.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council does hereby approve the standardization of demand and time-of-use solid state meters from one manufacturer, Schlumberger.

Dated: August 18, 1999

=====

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 99-124 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held August 18, 1999, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Mann, Nakanishi and Land
(Mayor)

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Pennino


ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk